

books. The husbands in the dead of night they have plucked out of their beds from their wives, and haled them to prison."

" These bloody men " (of the High Commission), protested Barrow in another supplication, "will allow us neither meat, drink, fire, lodging, nor surfer any whose hearts the Lord would stir up for our relief, to have an access to us, by which means seventeen or eighteen have perished in the noisome jails within these six years; some of us had not one penny about us when we were sent to prison, nor anything to procure a maintenance for ourselves and families by our handy labour and trades, by which means not only we ourselves but our families and children are undone and starved. Their unbridled slander, their lawless, privy searches, their violent breaking open houses, their taking away whatever they think meet, and their barbarous usage of women and children, &c., we are forced to omit lest we be tedious. That which we crave for us all is the liberty to die openly or live openly in the land of our nativity ; if we deserve death, let us not be closely murdered, yea, starved to death with hunger and cold, and stifled in loathsome dungeons."

In view of these facts banishment might well seem a providential deliverance to the survivors of ecclesiastical tyranny. The prisons were cleared in the meantime, and the bishops were left to enjoy the victory which they had won by the aid of such barbarous methods in tolerable tranquillity during the remaining years of Elizabeth's reign. Some stout nonconformist would occasionally defy the law and follow his expatriated brethren across the North Sea; the controversy between Arminians, Calvinists, Latitudinarians, gave the queen and the archbishop no little anxiety, as the Lambeth Articles and the prohibition of Dr Bound's Puritan treatise on the Sabbath show. But the dispute was as yet but the cloud no bigger than a man's hand on the distant horizon, and the thunderstorm which it heralded did not burst in its fury till the reigns of Elizabeth's successor and his son. The triumph of conformity seemed complete, yet the cause of conformity was far from being won. The Puritans were merely biding their time for a renewal of the attack, and at the death of Elizabeth they emerged once more, as we shall see, as a